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13 January 1965

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

COMMUNIST TROOP MOVEMENTS IN LAGS

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE Office of Current Intelligence

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Office of Current Intelligence 13 January 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Communist Troop Movements in Laos

1.	25X1
approximately 4,000-5,000 Communist	25 X 1
troops may have moved into southern Laos during the	
past month. In addition, about 1,000-1,500 enemy	
troops were reported moving into positions in Central	

2. The movement of Communist troops into the Muong Phine-Tchepone region of southern Laos coincided roughly with the reopening in mid-December of the road (Route 23) linking Mu Gia Pass on the North Vietnamese border with Route 9, about 75 miles to the south. This key artery had been closed since last June as a result of heavy monsoonal rains.

Laos, in the Nhommarath-Mahaxay area east of Thakhek.

3. Our estimate of southbound troop movement is based on the following observations (see map):

Date	Observation	Location	Troops	
12 16 Dec	7 VC bns moving into Laos	Posit 1	2800 - 3500	25X1
14 Dec	300 PL/VC troops	Posit 3	300	25X1 25X1
16 Dec(?)2 VC bns between 12-16 Dec	Posit 2	800 - 1000	25X1

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Date	Observation	Location	Troops	
14- 15 Dec	3 PL bns and 500 VC moving south	Posit 5	1700- 2000	25X1 25X1
16- 18 Dec	2000 PL and 500 VC seen by roadwatch team moving south	Posit 4	2500	
	COMMENT: The above group of state ever present discrepancies timing and numbers—appears to southward along Route 23 of 20	s as to property	ecise a move	
20 Dec	50 trucks each with 30 PL/ "Chinese," moving south	Posit 1	1500	25X1
21 Dec	20 trucks, each with 30 VC, moving south	Posit 1	600	25X1
22 Dec	50 trucks, each with an unknown number of troops, moving south	Posit 1	1000 - 1500	25X1
23- 26 Dec	Trucks heard "continuously moving" south by roadwatch tembetween 1900-2400 hours	Posit 4 am	unknown	
	rough esprobably are considerably exaging for overstatement and posttion, it seems likely that bettroops were involved in these the total southbound movement troops.	sible dupli tween 2000 moves, br	Allow- ica- -2500	25X1 25X1

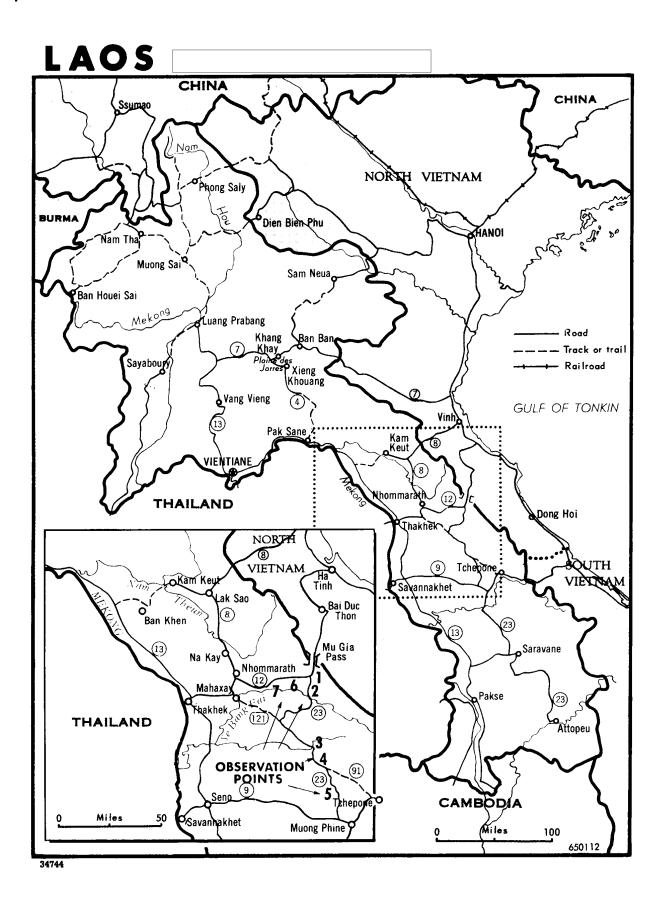
4. In addition to the 4-5000 troops estimated to have moved south along Route 23 in late December, over 80 trucks carrying unidentified cargo have been reported southbound in January.

5. Roadwatch teams have also reported a sizable movement of Communist troops westward along Route 12 toward the Mahaxay-Nhommarath area, totaling probably-allowing for some exaggeration-between 1000-1500 troops. This estimate is based upon the following observations:

<u>Da</u>	<u>te</u>	Observation	Location	Troops
15	Dec	7 trucks, each with 30 VC troops moving west	Posit 6	210
		COMMENT: Probably included in	16 Dec sig	ghting
16	Dec	19 trucks, each with 25 VC troops moving west	Posit 7	475
17	Dec	15 trucks, each with an unknown number of VC troops moving west	Posit 7	300-475
20	Dec	8 trucks, each with 25 VC troops moving west	Posit 6	200
21	Dec	10 trucks, each with 30 VC troops moving west	Posit 6	300
26	Dec	4 trucks, each with 30 VC troops moving west	Posit 6	120
	Dec- Jan	55 trucks, with 250 u/i troops moving west	Posit 7	250
3	Jan	9 trucks, each with 30 VC troops moving west	Posit 6	270

6. There is a slim possibility that some of the above troops subsequently moved south toward the Huong Phine-Tchepone area along Route 121, a factor which would slightly alter the overall estimates cited above. Reports indicate that in mid-December, efforts were under way to make that route passable for truck traffic.





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